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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Letter dated 31 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Regulations governing the activities of foreign (international) observers during the preparation and holding of elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, approved by a decision of the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and the Holding of Republic Referendums, taken on 13 July 2000.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 39.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Alyaksandr **Sychov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 31 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Regulations governing the activities of foreign (international) observers during the preparation and holding of the elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus (adopted by a decision of the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and the Holding of Republic Referendums, taken on 13 July 2000)

1. Pursuant to article 55 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus, foreign (international) observers are individuals representing a foreign Government or international organization, who have acquired the right to observe the preparation and holding of the elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as the House of Representatives) in accordance with the existing procedure established under the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus.

2. Foreign (international) observers shall be invited to the Republic of Belarus by the President of the Republic, the House of Representatives, the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, and the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and the Holding of Republic Referendums (hereinafter referred to as the Central Commission).

3. Foreign (international) observers shall be accredited by the Central Commission.

The Central Commission shall issue to a foreign (international) observer an identity certificate corresponding to the established model, in accordance with an application submitted by him, a document confirming his identity and an invitation to observe the elections.

The identity certificate is the document that entitles the foreign (international) observers to carry out their activities during the period of the preparation and holding of the elections to the House of Representatives.

The term of the mandates of the foreign (international) observers shall begin on the date of their accreditation and shall end on the date of the publication of the results of the elections of the deputies to the House of Representatives of the Republic of Belarus.

4. In accordance with article 11 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, foreign (international) observers, during their stay in the territory of the Republic of Belarus, shall enjoy rights and freedoms and carry out duties on equal terms with citizens of the Republic of Belarus, unless otherwise specified under the Constitution, the laws or international treaties.

The electoral commissions on the elections of deputies to the House of Representatives, local representative and executive organs, the organs inviting

foreign (international) observers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus shall render them assistance that is necessary.

5. Foreign (international) observers shall carry out their activities independently and autonomously.

The activities of the foreign (international) observers shall be financed by the parties sending the observers, or at their own expense.

6. Foreign (international) observers shall have the right to:

- Attend meetings of the electoral commissions on the elections of deputies to the House of Representatives;
- Meet with candidates for the office of deputy to the House of Representatives and their personal representatives;
- Be present during the sealing or securing of the ballot boxes;
- Be present on the day of voting in the premises for voting from the time of the sealing or securing of the ballot boxes until the completion of the tallying of the results of the voting;
- Be present during voting ahead of schedule at the place where the voters are located;
- Observe the issuance of ballots and the conduct of the voting, and compliance with the procedure for voting established by the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus;
- Address proposals and remarks on the organization of the voting to the chairman of the area electoral commission or his deputy;
- Receive information on the results of the vote count and on the drawing up of the reports of the electoral commissions on the election results;
- Familiarize themselves with the reports of the area electoral commissions on the results of the voting and the reports of the district electoral commissions on the results of the elections that are signed and sent to the higher electoral commission;
- Make a copy of the report of the area electoral commission on the results of the voting through their own efforts and at their own expense;
- Express their views, after the voting day, on the electoral legislation of the Republic of Belarus and on the preparation and holding of the elections to the House of Representatives, and hold a press conference and make statements to the mass media.

Foreign (international) observers shall not have the right to use their status for activities unrelated to observing the preparation and holding of the elections to the House of Representatives.

The Central Commission shall have the right to withdraw the accreditation of a foreign (international) observer if he violates the laws of the Republic of Belarus or the generally accepted principles and norms of international law.